
SENATE BILL 5205

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Sheldon and Morton

Read first time 01/12/2007. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to metal detectors in state parks; adding new
2 sections to chapter 79A.05 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature that
5 those significant historic archaeological resources on state park lands
6 that are of importance to the history of our state, or its communities,
7 be protected for the people of the state. At the same time, the
8 legislature also recognizes that the recreational use of metal
9 detectors in state parks is a legitimate form of recreation that can be
10 compatible with the protection of significant historic archaeological
11 resources.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 79A.05 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) By September 1, 2008, the commission shall open all developed
15 and disturbed areas of state parks for the recreational use of metal
16 detectors. Developed and disturbed areas are further defined as
17 campgrounds, parking areas, boat launches, and similar areas that have
18 been subject to capital development or future capital development by

1 state parks, that would not retain any archaeological information, and
2 that have been verified by the department of archaeology and historic
3 preservation.

4 (2) The legislature directs that on state park lands, historic
5 archaeological resources, as defined in RCW 27.53.030, be managed in
6 such a way that the integrity of those properties not be diminished.
7 Metal detectors may be used on state park lands that do not meet the
8 definition of historic archaeological resources.

9 (3) All federal lands leased to state parks are exempt from metal
10 detecting.

11 (4) Any items discovered of historic archaeological significance
12 must be turned in to the state through the commission.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 79A.05 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) If the commission determines that all developed or disturbed
16 areas of a park must be exempted from metal detecting because of its
17 historic archaeological resources, the commission must, by December 1,
18 2008, submit a brief report to the appropriate standing committees of
19 the legislature as to how they and a professional archaeologist made
20 this determination.

21 (2) It is the intent of this section to not allow blanket
22 exemptions but to ensure the preservation for the public of proven
23 historic archaeological resources.

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